

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THAT AN ATTORNEY WHO MAKES A CAMPAIGN
5 CONTRIBUTION TO A CANDIDATE FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE MAY NOT PRACTICE BEFORE THAT JUDGE
6 FOR 3 YEARS."

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8 WHEREAS, Article IV, section 3, of the Montana Constitution requires the Legislature to ensure the purity
9 of elections and guard against abuses of the electoral process; and

10 WHEREAS, Article VII, section 2, of the Montana Constitution provides that the Supreme Court may
11 make rules for the admission to the bar and for the conduct of its members; and

12 WHEREAS, campaign contributions to judicial candidates by officers of the court create the appearance
13 of impropriety.

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15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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17 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Political contributions to judicial candidates -- restrictions on**
18 **appearance before judge.** An attorney licensed to practice law in Montana pursuant to rules adopted by the
19 Montana supreme court under Article VII, section 2(3), of the Montana constitution may not practice or otherwise
20 appear in a proceeding before a judge to whom the attorney has made a campaign contribution within the
21 preceding 3 years. The provisions of this section apply to contributions made to a candidate for the office of
22 supreme court justice, district court judge, justice of the peace, municipal court judge, or city court judge.

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24 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
25 integral part of Title 13, chapter 35, part 2, and the provisions of Title 13, chapter 35, part 2, apply to [section 1].

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